



APHIS

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Pest Detection and Management Programs

Weekly Notice, April 14, 2003

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/>

Cotton Pest Programs

Pink Bollworm Eradication – The 2003 program is off to a good start. Managers are hiring and training seasonal personnel to cover the 150,000-acre program area around El Paso, Texas; Las Cruces, New Mexico; and Chihuahua, Mexico. This will be the second full season of program operation.

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Boll Weevil Eradication – Cotton planting began in South Texas back in late February and March, but is now in full-swing across the rest of the Cotton Belt. About 9.5 million acres will be in active eradication this year, with another 6 million acres already completed. Nearly 3 million green pheromone traps will be installed around cotton fields over the next few weeks. Most will be checked weekly, and will trigger any necessary treatments throughout the season.

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Emergency Programs

Emerald Ash Borer in Ohio - As early as next week, the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) intends to cut, chip, remove and chemically treat ash trees from properties near Whitehouse in Lucas County, Ohio. This action is part of a cooperative effort by ODA and APHIS to halt the spread of the emerald ash borer, an invasive ash tree pest that was discovered last February on five properties in Ohio. Twenty-three properties within a 1/4 mile of the infested sites will have ash trees removed. They were recently quarantined (restricted from moving any trees, branches, firewood, or wood chips.) In all, nearly 3,800 ash trees, most of which are less than six inches in diameter, are targeted for removal. Two public meetings were held in Ohio, one primarily for professional people (extension agents, park managers, landscape maintenance professionals,

arborists, nurserymen) and a second meeting intended for and primarily attended by local residents. News print and TV media also attended. Imidacloprid chemical treatments of ash trees within 1/2 mile of the infested site were discussed at length. APHIS is completing the appropriate environmental documentation prior to the initiation of treatments.

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Domestic Programs

Ralstonia - Detections of *Ralstonia solanacearum* race 3 biovar 2 at nursery facilities that received suspect geraniums continue to be confirmed. As of April 14th, there are 26 States with positive confirmations as follows with the 123 establishments, excluding the two rooting stations, tallied by state:

AL (9), AR(2), CO(1), DE (1), GA (2), ID(1), IL (4), IN (4), IA (6), KS (3), KY(1), MD (3), MI (11), MN (4), MO (6), NH(1), NJ(1), NY(3), NC (12), OH (7), PA (8), SC (8), TN (1), TX (7), VA (10), and WI (7). With some additional nurseries held because of trace forward investigations, there are currently 148 nurseries on hold with control actions having taken, or are taking place at 112 establishments and other locations with positive testing facilities are making arrangements for control and disinfection actions. To date, 771 establishments have been released. The numbers of samples from plants with symptoms are slowing down in their arrival at the Center for Plant Health Science and Technology Beltsville laboratory after screening at the state or cooperating university diagnostic laboratories.
Submitted by: Joel Floyd

Sudden Oak Death - Last week the Forest Service, COMTF, and PPQ (Sandy Jordan PPQ Sacramento) met with members of several tribes within the area regulated for *P. ramorum*. Sandy discussed what plants and plant parts were regulated and how those regulations currently read and learned what the tribes use those parts for. The tribes expressed concern about effects the disease might have on plants on tribal lands and impacts on their traditional uses of native plants. Their uses of regulated plants and parts include acorns for eating and wood and bark and leaves in basket making. Rick Wadleigh, WR Tribal Liaison agreed that organization of a two stage



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formal consultation with the Tribes is appropriate with a July or August timeframe and a one day commitment for stage one and a one week commitment for stage two.

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